ceipts were $20,000 annually, and expenditures $7,000. The Commissioners had started this year with an overdraft at the bank of $50,000, and that at six per cent. would entail an expenditure of $3,000 for interest. while this year their interest account was $7,000. On the police item he thought the city should have increased representation on the Police Board. (Hear, hear.) The Board of School Trustees ought also to bear a share of the stigma if stigma were attached to the matter. In the controllable expenditure the amount for relief seemed to him out of all proportion. The reduction in the block pavement was owing to the laying over of a large amount to next year. It was a cause for congratulation that the expenses of the Fire Department had been decreased. The result of the decline in the receipts from other sources than taxation, $28,393.43, this year would necessitate just that amount to be raised by taxation. This year it was necessary to raise $269,322 for expenditure, while last year the amount raised was $274,955.84. This was a decrease of $53,904 53. In comparison with 1879 and 1880 and 1881, the expenditure this year would be much less. In 1879 the rate of expenditure was 24 mills on the dollar; 29 7-10 in 1880, and 28 3-5 in 1881. This was accounted for by the fact that no provision for a sinking fund had been made in those years. While the taxable property had increased 16½ per cent. since 1879, the expenditure had only been increased 16¼ per cent. He thought from this that careful financing and economy would place the city in a good position. He moved the adoption of the estimates.

Ald. Minhinnick seconded.

Ald. Pritchard congratulated the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his concise statement. He thought if the large amount which was put under the head of sinking fund had been utilized for permanent improvements the taxes might have been kept down to twenty mills. He referred to the city property acquired of late years, such as the Park, City Hospital and sewers and street improvements, amounting to $182,000. This was more than the amount due as sinking fund, and he thought it hardly just to the taxpayers to issue debentures for that amount, and ask them to pay the amount over again. He moved that the amount debited to the Sinking Fund be devoted to necessary permanent improvements this year, and the rate reduced to 20 mills on the dollar.

Ald. Buckle advocated the sale of the Ordnance Lands and Exhibition Grounds. The rate of taxes was so high in the city now, that people were being driven out of it; and the keeping of 50 acres or more in the heart of the city was the best way to keep the taxes up.

Ald. Peel had borne the burden and heat of the day, and thought these heavy liabilities should be left for their children to pay for, as they would reap the benefit of them.

The Mayor then called Ald. Buckle to the chair. While concurring in some of Ald. Hyman's remarks, he defended the action of the Water Commissioners, and stated that they had only laid pipes where a return of ten per cent. had been estimated. The city should certainly have increased representation on the Police Board, but they might congratulate themselves on the possession of a very efficient police force, very economically kept up. From what he had heard since the publication of the estimates he was more than ever opposed to increasing the taxes over two cents on the dollar. He did not think Ald. Pritchard's proposal would meet the case, but thought the proper course to pursue would be to sell some of the city property, Queen's Park, for instance.

Ald. Taylor also opposed the imposition of a higher rate than two cents on the dollar. The taxes bore heaviest on the working man, as the merchants made their business pay its share, and lived out of town, where taxes were low. (Laughter.) He knew cases where property had been depreciated through high taxes, in this city. Men who now advocated economy had voted many an extravagant grant during the past year, and if they took care of the dollars the thousands would take care of themselves.

Ald. Hyman asked Ald. Taylor for further particulars. He made certain charges against members of this Council, and should mention the names.

Ald. Taylor—There are too many of them. If you like I will furnish a list at next meeting.

Ald. Murray supported Ald. Pritchard.

Ald. Crawford believed that the members of the Council were all pretty well taxed. He thought the people had been blindfold in former years, and Ald. Hyman deserved great credit for making a thorough statement of the city's affairs. Debts, whether city or individual, should be paid.

Ald. Jones had opposed 22 mills in Committee, and opposed it now. He would prefer to sell some of the city property rather than raise the rate.

Ald. Boyd explained the Fire Department accounts, which were stated by the Chairman to show a decrease this year. If

the amount of hose purchased last year was considered, the expenditure this year would shew an increase.

Ald. Hyman—We have to take the accounts as they come in.

Ald. Hyman, in reply to Ald. Buckle would say that if increased taxation was such a very bad thing the expenditure should be kept down. They were not certain that the Legislature would allow the proposed issue of debentures to raise $140,000 due on sinking fund, and if not the city would be in a dilemma indeed. It might be a good investment for the Water-works to increase their mains, etc., but spending money on capital account when there was no capital was a very bad course.

The Mayor—Would you not support the issue of debentures for the Water-works liabilities and extension ?

Ald. Hyman—I would if by that means the revenue could be increased from the Works. In reply to Ald. Taylor he would state that that gentleman was in error when he asserted that business men did not pay the taxes. Not one-tenth of a business man's taxes were paid in the suburbs where he lived if his business was conducted in the city. He was not prepared to take the risk of neglecting to provide a sinking fund, as the best legal advice was that the aldermen were personally liable for such fund. It was most unfair to raise a small amount by taxes and spend a large amount.

Ald. Minhinnick felt that the sinking fund was a wise and gradual way of paying debts, and he did not propose to take the risk of not providing for it. The debts of the city amounted to over a million dollars, and that would swallow up most of the assets. The more hopeful way was to pay as they go. He would strongly advocate the sale of Salter's Grove and the Fair Grounds, which would make a large increase in the taxable property of the city.

Ald. Boyd moved, seconded by Ald. Hunt, that in order to reduce the taxation to two cents on the dollar, an item of $22,794 be placed in the estimates as result from the sale of Salter's Grove.

Ald. Pritchard moved in amendment, seconded by Ald Taylor, that the amount levied on the taxpayers as a sinking fund, be applied as the law permits to such permanent improvements as may be made this year, and that the rate be reduced to 2 cents on the dollar.

The Mayor would support the resolution if it were amended to read city property.

Ald. Hyman doubted whether it was good financing to dispose of assets without applying the proceeds to the reduction of old liabilities instead of to meet current expenses.

Ald. O'Meara did not believe the sale of city property would assist them much. Twenty-one lunatics could not have done worse than spend all the money on hand and go in debt all they could. The people would not hear of selling the Exhibition Grounds, and could not trust the Council to sell Salter's Grove.

On the suggestion of Ald. Hyman, Ald. Boyd's motion was changed by taking out the reference to the rate, and the motion was carried.

Yeas—Ald. Pritchard, Hunt, O'Meara, Jones, Taylor, Murray, Skinner, Crawford, Boyd and Peel—10.

Nays—Ald. Birrell, Hyman, Ferguson Higgins, Minhinnick, Buckle and Sharman.

On the 7th clause Ald. Pritchard moved seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the time be extended to December 14, and after that time 7 per cent. interest be charged.—Carried.

Ald. Hyman stated that many business men would prefer to pay the interest rather than the principal, as the money was worth more to them.

The roll was made returnable on April 1st instead of March 1st.

The other clauses passed, and the report as amended was adopted.

The Mayor then resumed the chair.

NUMBER TWO.

Ald. Boyd (chairman) reported from this Committee as follows:—(1) That accounts amounting to $2,213 be paid and that Wm. Lyons be paid $20 in full for damages done his horse on Richmond street; (2) that the tender of B. Johnston for the construction of a sewer on York street, between Richmond and Talbot streets, $500, and that of Moses Cox for a sewer on Queen's avenue, $245, be accepted; (3) that sewers be advertised for construction on the following streets:—On King street, between Wellington and Waterloo streets; on Richmond street, from Fullarton to Maple streets; on Waterloo street, from Dufferin avenue to Dundas street; on Queen's avenue, from Waterloo to Colborne streets, and on Dufferin avenue, from Colborne to Maitland streets.

Ald. Hyman hoped the report would not be adopted, as there were a number of sewers called for which did not appear in the estimates.

Ald. Stringer and Taylor strongly advocated the necessity for these sewers, as the people had petitioned for them, and were willing to pay for them.